GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2403
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015
Import of Oil Seeds
Patel Shri Dilip

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) the quantum and value of different varietis of GMO Oil seeds including white poppy, canola, sunflower and soya seeds imported into the country during each of the last three years and relaxation given in the criteria fixed for their import, country and variety-wise;
b) whether the Government proposes to import different varieties of seeds including canola seeds in higher quantity during the current year and if so, the quantum and value thereof;
c) whether any relaxation has been given for import permission at the port of exit for seeds and any oil and if so, the details thereof; and
d) whether the Government has any agency/committee to examine the quality of imported seeds and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) to (d): Country-wise and variety-wise India's import of all oil seeds for the last three years and current year (up to September, 2015) is at Annex.
Import of oil seeds is free; only seed quality is 'restricted'. Import of seed is subject to Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules there under for sanitary (bacterial contaminants, pesticides, inspection and labelling) purpose and Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 for phytosanitary (pest & disease) purpose.
Import Policy of Genetically Modified Food, Feed, Genetically Modified Organism (GMOs) and Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) is duly notified under ITC (HS) 2012, Schedule-1 (Import Policy). Import of GM food requires prior approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) constituted under Rules, 1989. The above regulations provide for taking punitive action against the importers in case of wrong declaration or import without prior approval of the GEAC.

The Government of India is following a policy of case by case approval of genetically modified (GM) crops. In view of the safety concerns, all crops are tested for its safety, efficacy and agronomic benefits in accordance with the prescribed biosafety guidelines and provisions of 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms (HMOs) / Genetically Engineered Organisms (GMOs) or Cells,1989' (Rules, 1989) notified under the Environment (Protection) Act,1986. The environmental safety assessment includes studies on pollen escape out- crossing, aggressiveness and weediness, effect of the gene on non-target organisms, presence of protein in soil and its effect on soil micro-flora, confirmation of the absence of terminator gene and baseline susceptibility studies. The food and feed safety studies include assessment on composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies and feeding studies on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes. In case, the transgenic crop is not found suitable for release in the environment or human consumption, the product is rejected during the trial stage itself. Permission is granted on case by case basis following regulatory guidelines and procedures stipulated under Rules 1989. In addition, GM seeds also undergo obligatory and elaborate post-entry quarantine processing and molecular and quarantine testing for pest, pathogens & insects before initiating further research on it.
Further, vide Gazette Notification GSR 584 (E), 586 (E), 588(E) and 589(E) dated 1stSeptember, 2006, issued by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change , the seed inspectors, seed analyst and laboratories notified under the Seed Act, 1966 and seed Control Order, 1983 have been empowered under EPA, 1986.

IMPORT OF OIL SEEDS
(VALUES IN MILLION USD)
ITCHS ITCHS DESC 2012-13 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16(APR TO SEP)
QTY(TON) VAL QTY(TON) VAL QTY(TON) VAL QTY(TON) VAL
12011000 SOYA BEANS W/N BROKEN OF SEED QLTY 235.00 0.03 75.00 0.01 154.00 0.08
12019000 OTHER SOYA BEANS 837.40 0.62 440.31 0.46 6311.56 3.82 8065.50 5.20
12022010 SHELLED GROUNDNUTS KERNEL H.P.S 19.00 0.03
12022090 SHELLED GROUNDNUTS KERNEL N.E.S 19.15 0.03
12024220 KERNELS, OTHER 20.00 0.02
12024290 OTHER 114.00 0.06 106.20 0.06 52.50 0.03
12040010 LINSEED W/N BROKEN OF SEED QLTY 110.38 0.07
12040090 OTHER LINSEED W/N BROKEN 22.00 0.02 270.40 0.20 587.10 0.37 21.00 0.01
12051000 LOW ERVUCACID RAPE OR COLZA SEEDS 0.12 0.00
12059000 OTHER RAPE/COLZA SEEDS W/N BROKEN 75.00 0.02 19.79 0.12
12060010 SUNFLOWER SEEDS W/N BROKEN OF SEED QLTY 1258.00 0.69 1086.00 0.61 1238.00 0.65 1009.05 0.48
12060090 OTHER SUNFLOWER SEEDS W/N BROKEN 150.56 0.08 0.82 0.01 7.00 0.01 5.00 0.01
12074010 SESAMUM SEED W/N BROKEN OF SEED QLTY 2154.00 3.23 5743.41 9.64 12663.20 21.15 3544.00 4.41
12074090 OTHER SESAMUM SEEDS W/N BROKEN 35896.45 51.41 67184.69 124.85 22104.59 41.52 11449.65 14.46

12079100 POPPY SEEDS W/N BROKEN 13209.56 28.01 15110.00 51.06 12834.15 39.10 9381.29 27.28
12079910 AJAMS W/N BROKEN 126.00 0.04
12079930 NIGER SEED W/N BROKEN 703.00 0.60 3616.00 4.20
12079990 OTHER OIL SEEDS AND OLEGINOUS FRUITS W/N BROKEN 41551.76 18.66 52810.20 26.09 43305.79 21.67 797.00 0.56
Grand Total 95554.00 102.85 142854.61 213.10 99990.96 129.05 38094.99 56.71

NOTE:FIGURES FOR 2015-16(APR TO SEP) IS PROVISIONAL.

COUNTRY-WISE IMPORT OF OIL SEEDS (VALUES IN MILLION USD)
COUNTRY 2012-13 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16(APR TO SEP)
QTY(TON) VAL QTY(TON) VAL QTY(TON) VAL QTY(TON) VAL
AFGHANISTAN 51.250 0.044
AUSTRALIA 0.060 0.0004 0.115 0.001
BANGLADESH PR 75.000 0.016
BENIN 6528.756 3.239 7743.990 3.581 2133.000 1.170
BURKINA FASO 54.000 0.097 639.000 0.366 380.280 0.486
CANADA 4.548 0.006 30.000 0.011 68.000 0.043
CHAD 417.990 0.721
CHINA P RP 663.000 1.413 578.432 1.677 1808.000 6.004 1739.000 4.411
COSTA RICA 950.000 0.578 1125.962 1.022 100.000 0.080
COTE D" IVOIRE 1116.240 0.674 700.250 0.500 182.000 0.091
CZECH REPUBLIC 65.000 0.178 174.000 0.693 152.000 0.520 51.000 0.164
DJIBOUTI 608.000 0.963 57.000 0.110 660.000 0.385
EGYPT A RP 127.000 0.060 216.000 0.380 48.000 0.017
ETHIOPIA 2452.000 3.864 1254.000 2.626 5884.556 4.356 8122.500 5.327
FRANCE 50.306 0.036
GERMANY 19.500 0.028 57.217 0.104
GHANA 20699.000 9.448 37452.000 19.035 28207.000 15.693 446.000 0.355
GREECE 48.000 0.092 19.000 0.054
GUINEA BISSAU 129.000 0.156
IRAN 764.250 0.261 564.350 0.187 372.000 0.172 131.000 0.087
ISRAEL 18.000 0.056
ITALY 19.000 0.028 37.000 0.104
JAPAN 0.460 0.001
KENYA 33.000 0.064 24.000 0.050
KOREA RP 0.120 0.000 618.000 1.579
MADAGASCAR 11.000 0.011
MALAWI 155.000 0.083 104.000 0.060
MALAYSIA 50.000 0.050
MALI 190.000 0.240
MOLDOVA 745.000 0.373 1009.000 0.477
MOZAMBIQUE 200.000 0.164 91.000 0.116 398.000 0.581
MYANMAR 703.000 0.599 3443.000 3.993
NEPAL 37.000 0.021 227.000 0.146 783.680 0.472 73.500 0.039
NETHERLAND 20.160 0.024
NEW ZEALAND 19.725 0.119
NIGERIA 7486.049 10.881 12698.520 22.877 3459.310 4.470 2111.900 2.589
PAKISTAN IR 3034.397 4.145 15835.762 31.580 1827.513 2.574 95.000 0.123
RUSSIA 20.000 0.022
SENEGAL 38.000 0.044
SINGAPORE 315.000 0.532 37.000 0.109
SOMALIA 7983.060 9.949 25745.530 43.860 20146.425 35.846 9449.829 11.565
SRI LANKA DSR 3.000 0.006
SUDAN 23334.974 22.886 18669.180 30.022 18441.234 18.434 2186.280 2.858
TAIWAN 12.817 0.049
TANZANIA REP 1399.064 0.765 996.000 0.615 797.000 1.478 93.860 0.178
THAILAND 741.989 0.956 1026.000 0.373
TOGO 1684.152 2.615 660.560 1.184 147.000 0.320 380.300 0.481
TURKEY 12481.559 26.418 14358.000 48.689 10881.149 32.587 7596.288 22.711
U ARAB EMTS 1866.150 2.455 1231.705 1.794
U K 19.030 0.025 0.018 0.000 0.050 0.000
U S A 758.000 0.555 0.500 0.000 126.000 0.114 304.000 0.280
UGANDA 235.000 0.033 131.000 0.109
UKRAINE 389.000 0.218
UNSPECIFIED 107.000 0.096 19.000 0.038 57.205 0.102
UZBEKISTAN 20.000 0.023
VIETNAM SOC REP 129.000 0.038
Grand Total 95554.000 102.851 142854.605 213.100 99990.959 129.045 38094.992 56.708

NOTE: FIGURES FOR 2015-16(APR TO SEP) IS PROVISIONAL.
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